



MAN ALARMING RUMORS CURRENT

War Department Sifting Disquieting Reports.

SPANISH FLOTILLA.

It Leaves Cape Verde Islands Bound
for the North.

NO NEWS FROM ADMIRAL DEWEY

Received at the Navy Department
The Cable to the Philippines Con-
trolled by Spain, and Fears are
Expressed That All News Will
Be Distorted—Generals
Lee and Dodge.

WASHINGTON, April 29.—This was a day of alarming rumors, running all the way from the blowing up of a big monitor to the detection and punishment of traitors, but fortunately all of them turned out to be without foundation. Actual events of importance were few.

The news of the day began with the departure from Cape Verde of the Spanish fleet, the stay of which at St. Vincent has been a source of anxiety on the part of officials here because it seemed to indicate the sympathy of Portugal for Spain, might lead her to wink at a violation of neutrality laws in favor of Spain.

SPANISH FLEET LEAVES.
Late in the afternoon a cablegram came to the State Department from Cape Verde bearing no signature, saying that eight battleships and two torpedo boats had started north.

Captain Sampson sent a telegram relative to the firing at the Matanzas forts but it was disappointing, lacking in detail. The few words contained in the dispatch went to confirm the official view that the affair was nothing more than a naval reconnaissance.

No news came today from Admiral Dewey's squadron now on its way to the Philippines to do battle with the Spanish fleet. One officer pointed out that if Admiral Dewey succeeded in defeating the Spanish fleet the Spanish officials would control the cable connecting the islands with the rest of the world. In all probability may distort the news.

REACH MANILA TODAY.
Presuming that the Admiral is bound directly for Manila, the calculation made at the Navy Department shows he will arrive about 2 o'clock Saturday morning. Manila time which is about twelve hours earlier than our own.

The press continues unabated in the War Department. Very much against the will and judgment in the major of the present place, the Department is making some concessions.

General Lee and General Dodge spent a good part of the day in conference with officials of the government, and they are reported that they are among those selected for appointment as major generals. The announcement that the State of Texas, laden with supplies for the reconquest, is destined for Saigon, has been reported that it is a move of the United States fleet to Manila which has been selected as the landing place of the United States troops.

Regarding the harmless rumors that are in the air, the State Department is reported that they are among those selected for appointment as major generals. The announcement that the State of Texas, laden with supplies for the reconquest, is destined for Saigon, has been reported that it is a move of the United States fleet to Manila which has been selected as the landing place of the United States troops.

NEUTRALITY DECREE.
Vice-President De Soto, Thayer, the Portuguese Minister, looked over the Associated Press cable dispatch from Lisbon giving the substance of the neutrality decree issued to-day and said it was very accurate and covered the entire subject. He had to advise, however, of the full text of the proclamation up to a late hour.

The British and French Ambassadors here have received an instruction to give the substance of the neutrality decree to the press to-day and said it was very accurate and covered the entire subject. He had to advise, however, of the full text of the proclamation up to a late hour.

It is understood the German Ambassador will also receive instructions to give the substance of the neutrality decree to the press to-day and said it was very accurate and covered the entire subject. He had to advise, however, of the full text of the proclamation up to a late hour.

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This tax will fall heavily upon all such enterprises as the Buffalo Lithia and other springs of the State.

Ex-Senator Thomas N. Williams, of Mecklenburg county, representing the Buffalo Lithia, and Mr. Taylor, of the Fonticello Company, were here to-day, and the officers of the shipping interests in London, Havre, and other ports are supplementing the diplomatic negotiations with protestations against the tonnage tax.

The Government of Havre is expected to maintain strict neutrality as between the United States and Spain, and the exceptional privileges given to United States warships in Havre waters are erroneous. The Haytian Minister, Mr. Laguerre, said to-day that he had received official instructions concerning neutrality, but he had no doubt an attitude of impartial neutrality would be maintained.

BOUND FOR CUBA.

That Said to Be the Destination of the Spanish Flotilla.
LONDON, April 29.—The Evening News this afternoon publishes a dispatch from St. Vincent, stating that the Spanish fleet, under the command of Admiral Cervera, is bound for Cuba.

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TRAPPORTS DAMAGED.
ST. VINCENT, April 29.—Two Spanish transport ships (probably the San Francisco and the Ciudad de Cadix) have just returned here with three Spanish torpedo boats, almost likely the Azara, Araya and Ariste.

Owing to a collision, the Spaniards say, two of the torpedo boats have been slightly damaged. They claim the boats will be able to put to sea again tomorrow.

AT KEY WEST.

The Panther Arrives—A Corps of Red Cross Nurses on Hand.

KEY WEST, FLA., April 29.—To-day was one of wild rumor and little action. The chief incident of the day was the arrival of the troop ship Panther with nearly 700 men on board.

She comes from Hampton Roads in company of the Montgomery, Lieutenant-Colonel Huntington is in command. The Panther arrived from Tampa with ammunition for the fleet and the Annapolis returned after a brief business visit. The ship was not known except to the authorities and those aboard. The Amphitrite is still coaling here.

A statement is made by Lieutenant McKinley, in charge of the base hospital, that the vessels between 5 P. M. and 4 A. M. beginning to-morrow, according to the regulations governing the entry and departure of vessels during the continuance of the war.

A head of anxiety was lifted from the naval men here by the arrival late this evening of the little Spanish schooner Three Sisters with Paymaster George F. Simpson and two sailors of the Terror aboard. The vessel had almost been given up for lost.

The schooner, loaded with sugar, while bound from Havana for Cardenas, was captured off the latter place Sunday night. The schooner was taken by the Terror and the Machias near by. Paymaster Simpson and his companions were put aboard as a prize crew and started for Key West that night. The boat encountered heavy weather.

The schooner arrived this evening, bringing Miss Clara Barton and a corps of Red Cross workers. The party did not go ashore, but were taken down stream to the Red Cross ship, State of Texas, which has been waiting their arrival.

The State of Texas, under Captain Young, has four other Red Cross workers on board and 1,400 tons of provisions, clothing and medicines. She will await instructions from Washington before proceeding for Cuba.

The State of Texas will probably serve as a hospital ship for the fleet and troops. The inquiry into the legal questions involved in the capture of the prizes is proceeding slowly. The commission now consists of Judge J. M. Phillips and Julius Otto, of Key West, and Commander Wain, of the navy (retired).

No news has been received to-day of the fleet.

TERROR AT KEY WEST.

The Inhabitants in Dread of the Spanish Warships.

KEY WEST, FLA., April 29.—There are many nervous people in this semi-Cuban city and apprehension is not confined to the least intelligent class. The timid aver that Key West is sure to be the first point of attack by the Spanish fleet and the whereabouts of the latter they place some at Porto Rico, others off Bermuda, while some will almost certify that the hostile cruisers are less than an hundred miles away.

As reasons for their belief that Key West will be selected many say Spain has an especial grudge against the place as having been for many years a hot bed of treason to the crown, that the coal and naval stores belonging to the United States now here to supply the fleet would be of incalculable benefit to the Spaniards, and that the Vizcaya and Oquendo alone could capture the place in a few hours.

Not a few women have left Key West and others will soon follow.

AFTER THE SPECIE.

The Steamer Esmeralda Goes from Hong Kong to Manila.

HONG KONG, April 29.—The steamer Esmeralda, chartered by the banking companies, has gone to Manila, capital of the Philippine Islands, to bring away the specie there, as trouble is apprehended. It is understood she will be able to enter Manila before the United States fleet attacks that port. She has plenty of coal on board and also has a passenger the insurgent leader Felipe. She is supposed to have sealed orders to join the United States fleet after her mission is completed.

The cable to Manila has not been cut.

NO TREASON CASE NO BOMBARDMENT

Reports Sent Out Discovered to Be Without Foundation.

KEY WEST, FLA., April 29.—A small Spanish sloop, the Engracia, captured by the Newport, Captain R. F. Tilley, off Calumet yesterday, was brought in to-day. She was in charge of a prize consisting of a couple of blue jackets. Only one black shot was necessary to bring the Engracia to the men on board the prize had been in the Spanish navy and served as a crew of coal schooner. The officers of the Newport say the capture is an important one in view of the fact that the little vessel was attempting to carry into Havana news of the United States fleet.

NO CASE OF TREASON.
There was absolutely no foundation for the sensational reports cabled from here that a case of treason had been discovered on board the United States monitor Puritan. The rumor arose from the strange actions of a fireman with a Spanish-sounding name, who was under restraint on the warship because of his recent eccentricities. There is no thought of trying the man by court-martial, the officers of the Puritan declare, and all the talk about treason is absurd.

It appears that a few days ago the man in question was seen in one of the monitor's turrets, and the man who saw him reported that he had his hand on the lock of the magazine, whereupon the officers of the monitor immediately became excited, and declared there was a Spanish traitor on board. Through the extraordinary stories were concocted.

The officers of the Puritan believe the man, who is a fireman, is a Cuban, and they assert positively that he has never given evidence of any sort of sympathy with Spain. They say they had received orders from the Puritan to see that the man was kept under restraint on the warship because of his recent eccentricities. There is no thought of trying the man by court-martial, the officers of the Puritan declare, and all the talk about treason is absurd.

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THE BILL FOR REVENUE PASSES

Adopted by the House by a Majority of 39.

HARMONY LACKING.

The Views of the Two Parties Widely Divergent.

ALL AMENDMENTS VOTED DOWN.

The Democrats Made Strenuous Efforts to Substitute an Income Tax for the Bond Feature of the Bill—Also a Proposition to Issue \$150,000,000 in Greenbacks. Was Submitted.

WASHINGTON, April 29.—The House to-day passed the war revenue bill with only the amendments agreed by the Republican members of the Ways and Means Committee added. In order to accomplish this a parliamentary maneuver was necessary as the whole time for amendments was exhausted by the minority in trying to amend the bond feature of the bill.

Mr. Dingey offered as a substitute an entirely new bill containing these amendments after the bill had been reported to the House. This was an old parliamentary trick frequently resorted to. The Morrill tariff law was passed in this way in its original form.

The House decided to offer the motion to recommit with instructions to report back the income-tax proposition as an amendment to the bill instead of as a substitute for the bond provision. This was defeated, 124-174. Four Republicans voted with the Democrats and Populists on this vote.

THE FINAL VOTE.
On the final passage of the bill (which was carried by a vote of 181-111) the Democrats and Populists, with six exceptions, voted solidly against the measure.

The Democrats who voted for the bill were Messrs. Cummings, McClellan and Griggs, (New York); Fitzgerald, (Mass.); Meeker, (Penn.); and Wheeler, (Iowa).

The Republicans who voted against the bill were Messrs. Lincoln, (North Carolina), and Thorpe, (Virginia), voted with the opposition. Quite a number of Democrats declined to vote.

Mr. Boutwell, (Rep. of Maine), chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs, presented the conference report on the naval bill. Mr. Cannon, (Rep. of Illinois), made the point of order that the conference had exceeded their jurisdiction in that they had added to the bill provisions which were not in the original bill.

With the point of order pending he moved an adjournment which was carried.

MILLIONS FOR THE NAVY.
WASHINGTON, April 29.—At to-day's session of the Senate the report of the conference on the naval bill was presented. The measure as perfected carries a little more than \$75,000,000. No other business of general importance was transacted.

A bill granting permission to the Chattanooga Railway Transit Company to cross the Dry Valley road and extend its line to Chickamauga National Park was passed.

After passing a number of unimportant bills the Senate at 1:35, went into executive session and at 1:45 P. M. adjourned until Monday.

MINERAL WATER.

An Article that the War Revenue Bill Deals a Heavy Blow.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 29.—Specialists of the army revenue bill, which passed to-day, contains one item of taxation that is of the greatest import to many people in Virginia.

Under the head of proprietary medicine, all natural mineral waters bottled for sale are taxed two cents per half gallon bottle, making twenty-four cents per case on all waters so bottled.

This tax will fall heavily upon all such enterprises as the Buffalo Lithia and other springs of the State.

Ex-Senator Thomas N. Williams, of Mecklenburg county, representing the Buffalo Lithia, and Mr. Taylor, of the Fonticello Company, were here to-day, and the officers of the shipping interests in London, Havre, and other ports are supplementing the diplomatic negotiations with protestations against the tonnage tax.

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NEWS DOCTORED TO SUIT SPAIN.

Version of the Matanzas Affair Given in Madrid.

JUST A MULE KILLED.

That the Extent of Damage Which is Reported Officially.

THE VERSION GIVEN BY BLANCO.

Dispatches from Manila—The United States Warships Expected Sunday. Report that Germany Will Not Allow a Bombardment—The Spanish Fleet There Is Reinforced.

MADRID, April 29.—10 A. M.—It was officially stated to-day that the fortifications of Matanzas have not suffered. "In spite of 20 shells fired by the American fleet," and that "not one man was killed or wounded thereby."

In official circles the stories of the bombardment received via the United States are read with shouts of derisive laughter.

It is A. M.—Dispatches received here to-day from Manila, capital of the Philippine Islands, say the United States fleet is expected to arrive at Manila on Sunday.

The Spanish fleet has been divided into two squadrons. Two cruisers, the Castilla and other vessels remain near the front of Manila, the remaining Spanish warships under Admiral Montojo, are patrolling the western coast, awaiting the arrival of the American fleet.

THE FLEET REINFORCED.
The Spanish fleet, it appears, has been reinforced by a large auxiliary cruiser, said to be capable of steaming twenty knots, and armed as a warship. She is known as the Montevideo, but an examination of the maritime registers fails to establish her identity.

Non—the following is the substance of the official report made by Captain General Blanco on the subject of the bombardment of Matanzas by the American warships of Rear-Admiral Sampson's squadron on Wednesday last:

Three American cruisers fired on the harbor of Matanzas, at Matanzas without doing any damage. We fired four shots, to which the Americans replied with a multitude of mischievous quick firing guns, which did not do any injury.

"The American squadron also fired four cannon shots at Salambilla battery, only one man being killed, to which the Spanish battery only replied with four shots, and a few shells were scattered about."

"The whole squadron of five ships then threw several shells into the town, without doing any damage."

CONSUL PROTEST.
"The French and Austrian Consuls have protested against the bombardment, as it was commenced without previous warning to foreign subjects."

"The troops manning the stations are full of fight."

"It appears that our shots did some damage to the American ships."

"During the bombardment, Colonel Alfaro, with a column of troops, attacked a rebel band, under Retancourt, at Matanzas, south of Matanzas, capturing their positions and killing twenty men, including two chiefs. Arms, horses, stores and equipment were also captured."

One of Captain-General Blanco's dispatches, reporting the alleged groundings of the American iron-clad off the coast of Pinar del Rio, has been received with great rejoicing by the newspapers of Madrid. This, they declare, proves that the Americans are not versed in seamanship.

ALL THE NEWS.
General Corea, Minister of War in the Chamber of Deputies to-day replying to questions as to the bombardment of Matanzas, he said he was not going to publish "all the news received good or bad." Continuing, General Corea repeated the substance of General Blanco's report.

A. M.—In official circles it is not believed that the Americans can effect a landing on the shores of Matanzas bay as the bay is full of torpedoes.

The reports cabled from Washington respecting the movements of the American army and fleet are received as intended to hoodwink the Spanish government.

His latest dispatches from Havana say it was the American warship Montgomery which was ashore off the coast of Pinar del Rio and that she grounded on the rocks near Colomados. According to these dispatches three other warships succeeded in floating her, but the Montgomery is badly damaged.

There is great rejoicing in Havana at what is described as "the American repulse at Matanzas."

It is not believed that the United States will venture to attack Manila.

A. M.—A good impression has been produced here by the report that Germany has issued a note declaring it will not oppose an American landing on the Philippines, but will not permit a bombardment of Manila.

MANILA IMPREGNABLE.
It is P. M.—According to dispatches from Manila, the Vosa Espanola describes the port of Manila as impregnable. The port is defended by the forts at Malabon, San Mateo, Mita, Pasten, Miraflores and St. Lucia Pilar, bristling with guns, chiefly Krupp guns.

PORTUGAL'S NEUTRALITY.
The Official Decree Published Yesterday—No Privatizing.

LISBON, April 29.—The Official Gazette to-day publishes the neutrality decree of Portugal, in the war between Spain and the United States. It is similar to the decree issued at the time of the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian war and contains six articles.

1.—Prohibits the equipment of privateers in Portuguese waters.

THE TROOPS ARE THE MOVE.

The Invasion of Cuba Almost in Sight.

TAMPA IS THE BASE.

Supplies Being Rapidly Concentrated at That Point.

SOLDIERS FROM CHICKAMAUGA.

Every Train Now Bearing Them Southward—It Is Confidently Expected That a Movement on Cuba Will Be Ordered in the Next Few Days—Troops From Other Places on the March.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., April 29.—A special to the Times Union and Citizen from Tampa says: Troops are on the move again. This morning batteries K and E, of the First Artillery, arrived from Chickamauga. This is the first installation of the artillery arm of the service to reach Tampa. The train load consisted of ninety-six officers and men, with eight four-inch guns. Other troops are on the way from Chickamauga. The troops here are in readiness to strike camp, and all have a good supply of provisions on hand.

Lieutenant Ramsey, acting chief commissary officer, is buying immense quantities of stores for his department, not only for the forces now here, but for those who are to come. Colonel Arthur, General Wade's adjutant-general, and Lieutenant Ramsey, both artillery and cavalry that may be on the way.

BASE OF SUPPLIES.
The Government has purchased several thousand tons of coal now at Port Tampa, and wants thousands of tons more. This is the reason that Tampa has been decided upon as the permanent base of supplies. The guns brought here this morning and taken to Tampa have been unloaded from the cars. This would indicate that the depot will be used at Port Tampa to protect supplies.

The six companies of the Fifth Infantry now here are stationed at Pinar del Rio, just by the terminal, and the men of Colonel Cook's command do patrol duty in guarding the Government property.

Officers here are of the opinion that a few days will bring about great changes. They do not look for a movement looking to the embarkation of troops in the near future, but they do incline to the belief that the troops from Chickamauga will all be here next week, and the Tampa-Chickamauga divisions, now formed into brigades, will be en route for Matanzas by the latter part of next week. According to their figures, this army will consist of about 2,000 cavalry, 500 artillery, and 6,000 infantry.

A dredge of great capacity is hard at work in the slips at Port Tampa securing a greater depth of water so that vessels of the deepest draught can make fast to the docks, over which the tracks of the plant system run. The government has wonderful facilities here for rapid work.

THE FAMOUS NUNEZ.
Colonel Emilio Nunez, the well-known filibuster, arrived here this morning and was met at the depot by an immense crowd of Cubans. An officer from headquarters was at the depot with a carriage to take him to his quarters. He carried him to the Tampa Bay Hotel, where he was seen escorted with General Wade. It is learned here that he is here for the purpose of fitting out for the government an expedition of Cubans.

A large lot of guns and ammunition was received at Port Tampa last night, collected from the military schools. The guns are not the kind used now, and they will be placed in the hands of the volunteer forces. They will be sent to Cuban waters and the force will be landed by an escort from Sampson's fleet. A body of trained soldiers will be carried from here also. Those people who have expected that they will be able to make this trip are overjoyed. This will be the first force to leave for Cuba.

Colonel Nunez and General Wade were escorted together for a long time.

Colonel Lucero will also take part in the expedition.

ORDERED TO TAMPA.
CHICKAMAUGA NATIONAL PARK, April 29.—This has been a bustling day among the artillerymen at Chickamauga Park. In pursuance of orders issued yesterday, the eight batteries in camp were ordered at once to Tampa, and the entire day has been taken up in getting the men, horses and guns aboard the cars. Trains bearing the men and their equipments have been going the right way, and it is expected they will be here to-morrow morning. The Twenty-fourth Infantry will leave to-morrow by train direct from the park.

It was learned to-night that the orders will be issued to-morrow for the removal of the Twenty-fifth Infantry, and the Tenth Cavalry, and a semi-rumor is current to the effect that the Second Cavalry and the Seventh Infantry will go early next week. None of these commands have been filled to war strength.

Very few enlistments have been made up to this time. Captain Fred A. Smith, adjutant of the infantry division, has been assigned to open a recruiting station in Atlanta, and will report to that part of the Staff army at Tampa early to-morrow morning. The Ninth Cavalry received orders to-night to move at once, and the men are packing up.

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DRAWING NEAR TO MANILA.

Dewey's Squadron Said to Have Been Sighted

A BATTLE IMMINENT

The Defences of Manila Exceedingly Formidable.

MINES LAID IN THE HARBOR.

It Is Now Said That the Spanish Fleet Has Not Put to Sea to Meet the American Squadron, But Will Lie Under the Guns of the Forts—News from the Scene Very Meagre.

HONG KONG, April 29.—It is now said that the Spanish fleet has left Manila to meet the American squadron. On the contrary, it is asserted that the Spanish warships will remain in Manila bay to assist the forts.

SQUADRON SIGHTED.
It is reported from Manila that the American warships have been sighted off Bolinao, where the rebellion broke out last February, but the weather has been too stormy for the fleet to communicate with the rebels.

The insurgent chief, Aguinaldo, is coming